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Spring 5-3-1995

Senate Meeting, May 3, 1995

Academic Senate
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ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
(Not Approved by the Academic Senate)

May 3, 1995

Volume XXVI, No. 12

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by Chair Len Schmaltz. Secretary Jan Cook called the roll and declared a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of April 19, 1995

Amendments to the Minutes of April 19, 1995 were: The Chair of the Budget Committee is Senator Weber; Senator Jerich had an excused absence.

Motion XXVI-72: Approval of the Minutes of April 19, 1995, as amended by Borg (second, Perez) passed on a voice vote.

Chairperson's Remarks

Chair Len Schmaltz noted that an updated listing of the Senate committee assignments was at each person's place at the table.

Chair Schmaltz noted that the reconvened General Faculty Meeting would take place on Thursday, May 11, 1995 at 7 p.m. in Capen Auditorium. The ad hoc Committee to Assess the President chaired by Professor Tarr will have its report to the Senate Office sometime on Thursday, May 4, 1995. Duplicating services have estimated that it will take six hours to produce and collate enough copies for all ISU faculty. Distribution to the department offices will take place on Friday, May 5, 1995, in bundles of individually addressed envelopes. Members of the Committee to Assess the President have volunteered to help label, stuff, and deliver the envelopes in order to ensure prompt distribution.

Senator Liedtke asked that the Senate send a letter of thanks to all of the members of the Committee to Assess the President. Chair Schmaltz said that he would see to it.

Vice Chairperson's Remarks

The Greek Strategic Planning Team is seeking faculty membership. Faculty are invited to submit suggested names to Jane Campagna in the Office of Student Life.

The Executive Committee was asked, at the last Senate meeting, to draw up a list of topics for the Senate and its committees to address next year. The Student Caucus has a list of topics ready to submit. Other groups and committees are encouraged to submit their lists promptly.

Chairperson's Remarks, continued

Chair Schmaltz read a memo from Secretary Cook with regard to the General Faculty Meeting:

"A faculty member who is considering presenting a motion at the Faculty Meeting is asked to bring a written copy of it to the Senate Office by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10. Jan Cook will copy it into her word processor. She will bring the computer and projector to the Faculty Meeting. If, during the meeting, the faculty member decides to propose the motion, Jan cook will display the text of the motion and any amendments on the screen at the front of the auditorium where the audience can read it."

Senator Cook remarked that written motions are easier to evaluate than oral ones. Senator Jagodzinski asked if all motions would need to be submitted in advance. The reply was "No."

Chair Schmaltz asked Senate Internal Committees and other interested bodies to send the Executive Committee topics that the Senate should consider studying in the coming year. The Executive Committee will try to coordinate the resources needed to investigate those issues. If there are too many issues to be handled in Fall '95, the Executive Committee will select those which seem most immediate and schedule the rest for later study.

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Senator Jenkins:

"I am disturbed at recent and past developments with regard to student fees. Because student fees are paid for the by the students and provide a majority of funding for many facilities and programs, honest and legitimate student input should be a significant aspect of both the fee review process and in any instance when fees comprise a majority of the project funding -- such as the Facilities Enhancement Project.

"The analogy has been drawn demonstrating the similarity between asking students for a fee increase and asking insurance holders for a premium increase. I believe that a more appropriate analogy would be that asking for student input in a project where they will be the ultimate source for a majority of the funding is similar to asking a majority stockholder which direction the corporation should take.

"Recent actions by the administration and by former student leaders whose motives are questionable and highly suspect demonstrate quite the opposite. Student input is purely nominal. It is my sincere hope that the Administration and our Governing Board take sincere interest in input from the students through their elected representatives in next Fall's fee review process and the subsequent recommendations which arise."

Administrator's Remarks

President, Provost, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President for Business and Finance: No remarks.

Information Items

4.19.95.1 Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct. On the Agenda as "Tentative" pending consideration by the new Student Affairs Committee. Chair Schmaltz reported that the Committee had met on this issue since the agenda was printed and recommended presenting it for Information and possible Action at this meeting. Senator Jenkins presented the matter and Senator Gurowitz concurred in recommending it for approval by the Senate. The spelling of "device" will be corrected in the final copy of the Student Code of Conduct.

Motion XXVI-73: Move this matter from Information to Action status. Moved by Nelsen (second, Borg). The motion passed on a voice vote.

← Was it approved

Motion XXVI-74: Senator Razaki moved (second Jenkins) a Sense of the Senate Resolution arising from the Faculty Caucus preceding tonight's Senate meeting:

As stated in the ISU Constitution, Article V on Academic Governance, "the Academic Senate is the primary body to determine educational policy of the university and to advise the President on its implementation." The President's contention in his memo dated March 29, 1995, that "a committee to 'develop guidelines' and 'to explore various sources of financing'" is "unnecessary and inappropriate" is itself inappropriate. A committee of the Senate to develop such guidelines and sources is clearly in keeping with the spirit and letter of the Constitution.

It is the Sense of the Senate, therefore, that President Wallace's refusal to follow the Senate's recommendations regarding issues related to the Academic Impact Fund unjustifiably ignores the Senate's responsibility and authority "to determine educational policy and advise the President on its implementation" as provided by the ISU Constitution.

The Senate deplores this violation of the precepts of shared governance.

Chair Schmaltz called for debate. There was no debate. Second call for debate.

Senator Urice: The Senate is involved in setting academic policy. The Academic Impact Fund is finance, not policy. This motion is divisive and unproductive.

Senator Wallace: The Academic Impact Fund is internal reallocation of money budgeted under {the Provost's} Academic Affairs unit. Its distribution is the responsibility of the Deans, Provost, and department chairs. Asking the President to intervene in the Provost's domain is not appropriate.

Senator Liedtke: The faculty concern is that votes carried on the floor of the Senate should be honored.

Senator O'Malley: What does a Sense of the Senate Resolution do?

Chair Schmaltz et al: It is a statement of community opinion, and it appears in the Minutes as a part of the University's public record.

Senator Wallace: The resolution concerning the Academic Impact Fund WAS a sense of the Senate Resolution, and therefore a statement of opinion and non binding.

Senator Walker: That action arose from an Internal Committee Report. It was not a Sense of the Senate Resolution.

Senator Wallace: I stand corrected.

The Motion passed on a roll call vote of 26 Yes, 4 No, and 7 abstentions.

Further Communications

Senator Stearns, on behalf of the Committee to Assess the President, read a letter of appreciation into the record thanking Academic Senate office secretary Sunny Portree for all of the beyond-the-requirements time she contributed to their work:

"During the past sixty days you have provided the Committee to Assess the President with significant staff support. You have completed the work assigned to you by the Committee in a manner indicative of the highest professional standards. You have maintained the high level of confidentiality required in processing Committee documents. We are aware that have been times that the needs of the Committee required that you work beyond the normal employment hours. In spite of the pressure of time and the need for accuracy, you have provided documents to the Committee in a timely manner. Further, you have completed this work in a gracious manner.

"On behalf of the Committee, I wish to acknowledge and to thank you for your efforts. Without the high quality of your work, we would have had great difficulty in completing our work in the time allowed."

(The letter was signed by Rodger Tarr, Chair of the Committee to Assess the President.)

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Senator Walker: The Committee will meet briefly at the end of this meeting. We have asked Dr. Dillingham of the Provost's Office to join us to discuss the progress of the new General Studies Program.

Dillingham: A written report will be available in summer. To summarize, the Pilot Implementation Committee was appointed in Spring, 1994, as were Coordinating committees for each of the five inner core areas. Course descriptions for the inner core have been developed and two courses, "Language and Composition" and "Foundations of Inquiry," are being taught in small sections this Spring. "Language" has three sections with a total of 40 students, and "Foundations" has four sections totaling 60 students. The other courses of the inner core will be piloted in Fall, 1995.

This Spring the Pilot Implementation Committee solicited proposals for the courses in the four areas of what is being called the Middle Core. Eight proposals will be selected and funded for development in Summer, 1995. Those courses and two others will be taught to pilot sections

in Spring, 1996. At that time the Pilot Implementation Committee will solicit proposal for the course of the Outer Core.

All of the courses will go through the standard curriculum approval process. For courses led by one department, that means approval by the Department, the College, and the University Curriculum Committees. For interdisciplinary courses, a variation of the approval process for '89 courses is being used. One department leads the course through the usual channels to the University level, where the Council on University Studies becomes involved.

In the 1993-94 fiscal year, \$140,000 was budgeted for the Pilot Program. In 1994-95, we are spending about \$200,000. Most of the money is spent on personnel.

Senators Brooks and Liedtke asked several questions on how the success of the pilot program would be assessed.

Dillingham:

1. To assess a course, it is necessary to know the content and pedagogy. Until the class has been taught at least once, there is not enough evidence to assess. With the current courses, the faculty and Coordinating Committees are discussing use of student portfolios as a means of assessing accomplishment. They are working out what belongs in the portfolios and how the material can be used in assessment.
2. The general literature shows that virtually nothing has been done on assessing the effectiveness of General Education programs. We are studying the work of the few campuses which have tackled this question, but it appears that we will need to create the assessment process ourselves.
3. It is not expected that assessment will tell whether students "learn more" in the new courses than in the old ones. It is expected that they will learn differently in a coordinated program than they did in the fragmented one. The faculty involved in the pilot sections this semester continually comment on the changes they are making in their teaching as a consequence of their experience with these courses.
4. The criteria used to evaluate the program will be the Goals for the University Studies passed by the Academic Senate.

Open forums were held on each of the areas of the inner core, and on the request for proposals of courses for the middle core. The Pilot Implementation Committee will continue to hold such forums as we move into development of additional areas.

Senator Neulieb: For courses of this nature, qualitative assessments are more appropriate than quantitative ones. Primary and Secondary curricula are being examined by some national committees that are working out strategies for qualitative assessments. Their work might give us some ideas.

Senator Stearns: We are not going to get a computer print-out from a database to tell us how well the program is doing. It will take professional judgment.

Senator Kaiser: Faculty involved in the "Foundations" course discuss it very frankly on the RS-6000. To enroll in the REVOL@RS6000 discussion group, see Professor Klass.

Administrative Affairs No report. Will meet tonight after the Senate meeting.

Budget No report. Will meet tonight after the Senate meeting.

Faculty Affairs No report. Will meet tonight after the Senate meeting.

Rules McCaw: We are developing new reports.

Student Affairs No report.

Adjournment

Motion XXVI-75 by Schultz (second, Perez) to adjourn carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Cook, Secretary

ACADEMIC SENATE AGENDA

TIME: 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 3, 1995

PLACE: Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes of April 19, 1995

Chairperson's Remarks

Vice Chairperson's Remarks

Student Government Association President's Remarks

Administrators' Remarks

Action Items:

None

Information Items:

4.19.95.1 Revisions in 1994-95 Student Code of Conduct (Tentative)

Communications

Committee Reports

Adjournment